

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE B-14

THE WASHINGTON POST
31 AUGUST 1982

JACK ANDERSON

Embittered PLO Vows Vengeance On Americans

The Palestine Liberation Organization has declared "open season" on American diplomats in France. This vengeance against Americans will spread to other countries that have accepted PLO guerrillas from Lebanon. Eventually, the terrorism could reach the United States.

These warnings have been circulated at the highest levels in Washington. The chilling secret assessment is that no American diplomat is safe from assassination and that some inevitably will die.

Counterintelligence experts believe that the defeated and embittered PLO will probably disintegrate into radical splinter groups.

Perhaps the most dangerous faction is headed by George Habash, who is described in intelligence reports as "nihilistic" and "ruthless," with a preference for "dramatic and violent" methods.

He has been quoted as bitterly blaming the United States for the Israeli onslaught that broke the PLO's power in Lebanon. But he has always been viciously anti-American. Intelligence sources believe he ordered a terrorist campaign against

Americans even before the Israeli invasion.

They suspect Habash's assassins may be responsible for the attacks on Americans based in the Paris embassy. Intelligence sources say the Habash people may have collaborated with an even more radical group known as Abu Nidal.

Last November, the acting ambassador, Christian Chapman, was fired on by a lone gunman. Chapman ducked behind his car, and the shots missed.

Two months later, a military attache was shot and killed as he left his apartment in Paris. An unknown assailant simply walked up to Col. Charles Ray, pulled out a pistol and blew him away.

Then, a couple of weeks ago, a bomb intended for the commercial counselor, Roderick Grant, exploded near the Eiffel Tower. Grant escaped, but a member of the French bomb squad was killed and another critically injured.

The French police have established that the same gun was used to kill both the American military attache and an Israeli diplomat. This was also the gun that was fired at Ambassador Chapman.

The murders have yet to be solved; at first, the French police pursued the investigations indifferently. U.S. efforts to get action from the Paris police were extraordinarily difficult, a State Department source told my associate Lucette Lagnado.

Now French authorities are searching for the terrorists with more vigor. But they have been so tolerant toward terrorists that it may now be impossible to penetrate the radical community that has grown up in France.

Arms Race in Space: Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) has been investigating the ominous move toward militarization of outer space by the Soviet Union and the United States. He has already voiced his concern to President Reagan, and plans hearings on the subject next month.

Here are some of Pressler's preliminary findings on the latest developments in the military space race.

- The costs are already taking off like a moon rocket. The Air Force's Space Division has been upgraded to the Space Command, with a corresponding enhancement of its budget. In the next fiscal year, the military space budget will increase by more than one-third, from \$2.9 billion to \$4 billion.

- The lead in military space technology seesaws between the Soviets and the United States, and will probably continue to do so. For example, a U.S. killer satellite that may be able to sweep 100 to 200 Soviet satellites from the skies in a single day will be operational in the late 1980s. Yet the Soviets' development program for laser weapons is reputed to be five years ahead of ours.